GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4167
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2000
PRICE OF SOYABEAN
HARIBHAU MAHALE

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether soyabean is being procured at different places on lower price in comparison to the fixed rate is leading to huge losses to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to protect the interests of the farmers;

(c) whether the rate of soyabean oil has been increased recently; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the slump in the price rate of soyabean seeds?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a) & (b) : Soyabean of fair average quality (FAQ) is being procured by NAFED from M.P.Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. The Minimum Support Price for soyabean, it may bementioned, has been raised from Rs. 795 per quintal in 1998 to Rs. 845 per quintal in 1999.

One of the problems being faced by the farmers is the availability of soyabean of lower standard than FAQ. As per FAQ standard moisture is permitted upto 12% and discoloured Soyabean upto 3%. Due to heave rains at the time of harvesting, the harvested soyabean had moisture content of 15% and discoloured soyabean upto 20%. There was a demand from farmers of Madhya Pradesh in October 1999 to dilute FAQ standard so that they could get the same price for this quality of soyabean as of FAQ variety.

(c) The wholesale prices of soyabean oil in the last six months have been as under :

Month	Price Rs/Quintal Refined Soyabean Oil
November` 99	2360
December` 99	2406
January` 2000	2387
February` 2000	2255
March` 2000	2330
April` 2000	2420

(d) The reason for the present price situation of soyabean is the lack of demand and low prices of Indian de-oiled soya cake in the international market.